THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) As per information received from Govt. of Maharashtra, pursuant to the orders of the Supreme Court in W.P. No. 649/97 Ravindra Kumar Rai Vs. State Maharashtra & Ors., it has become mandatory for the Govt. of Maharashtra to hold Pre-Medical Test for Medical Admissions.

(b) and (c) Govt. of Maharashtra is making all arrangements to conduct PMT pursuant to the Supreme Court Order. The State Government has constituted different High Level Committees to perform functions at different steps that are required to be undertaken to carry put Pre-Examination, examination and Post-Examination work. The experts in the field of education have been involved for this purpose.

Rural hospitals in the North-East region

1883. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural hospitals now working in the North-East region, Statewise;

(b) the main criteria for upgrading the rural hospitals from the primary health centres;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that most of primary health sub-centres opened on the present existing norms are not properly functioning due to lack of staff; and

(d) whether Government are not in a position to increase the ministerial staff of the Centre specially in the North-East region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) In rural areas the following Institutions provide Hospital care to patients in North-eastern States;

	No. of Community Health Centres	No. of Primary Health Centres
Assam	105	619
Arunachal Pradesh	9	47
Manipur	16	72
Meghalaya	10	81
Mizoram	6	38
Nagaland	5	33
Tripura	11	56

(b) The upgradation of a Primary Health Centre to a Community Health Centre is done by the State Government keeping in view the targets fixed by the Planning Commission for establishing new Community Health Centre. The population norm for PHC's and for CHC's are as follows:

Centre	Population	
	Plain area	Hilly/Tribal area
P.H.C.	30,000	20,000
C.H.C.	1,20,000	80,000

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the fact that some of the opened PHCs and Sub-centres in the North-Eastern region are not functioning as desired due to shortage of staff. Government is taking measures by launching Reproductive and Child Health Programme and various area projects in North-Eastern region to fill up the gap in the development.

(d) Being a State subject it is under the discretion of State Government to recruit the staff for Primary Health Centres, Sub-centres and Community Health Centres.